

**Guidance: Highly Qualified Pre-kindergarten Teachers****Highly Qualified:**

Teachers must have one of the following to be considered highly qualified to teach Pre-kindergarten in North Dakota:

- B3 license
- Elementary education major and an early childhood endorsement
- Elementary education major and a minor in early childhood education
- Elementary education major and a kindergarten endorsement. A plan of study may be granted for the kindergarten endorsement which will allow a teacher two years to complete the required coursework for the endorsement.
- K-8 license. The K-8 licenses are no longer issued by ESPB. However, those who already have a K-8 license may teach pre-kindergarten.
- K-6 license. The K-6 licenses are no longer issued by ESPB. However, those who already have a K-6 license may teach pre-kindergarten.

**North Dakota Alternative Licensure:** [definition September 1, 2014.]

Alternative licensure/certification is available to those who wish to change career paths and hold at least a bachelor's degree. Alternative access licenses may be issued only in areas where documented shortages of regularly licensed teachers exist. The request for an alternative access license must be initiated by a school. The applicant must have proficiency and hold minimum qualifications of a content area bachelor's degree in the content area to be assigned. Initial applicants for alternative access licensure must also submit to the fingerprint background investigation.

Applicants who have entered the profession of teaching through alternative access licensure under elementary, middle, special education, or secondary endorsement, or trade, industry, technical, and health occupations interim licensure, and are seeking to complete the requirements for regular licensure may meet the student teaching requirement through a supervised clinical practice option approved by the Education Standards and Practices Board.

Upon completion of the alternative licensure/clinical practices option, the applicant must meet all of the requirements for regular licensure stated in Administrative Rule 67.1-02-02-02 and may apply for a regular two-year initial license.

**ESPB-Praxis Information:** Education Standards and Practices Board 701-328-9641

- Early Childhood Education <http://www.ets.org/praxis/nd/requirements>
- Early Childhood Content Knowledge-test code 5022
- Principles of Learning and Teaching-test code 5621